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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 7, 1991

The Honorable James A. Baker, III
 Secretary of State
 2201 C Street, 7th Floor
 Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to ask that you raise a number of issues with the government of China during your upcoming visit.

We are profoundly concerned about recent reports that China has been assisting Iran in developing nuclear weapons. China has reportedly provided Iran with equipment, including calutron devices, capable of making fissile material. Tehran is seeking much more technology than would be needed to develop a civilian nuclear power network, and as a major oil exporter, has little reason to develop a nuclear power industry.

These reports have been accompanied by aggressive statements by Deputy President Ayatollah Mohajerani about the need to develop nuclear weapons for use against Israel and other enemies. The ominous tone and content of these comments recalls similar statements by Saddam Hussein.

We are also concerned about continued human rights abuses in China. More than a thousand political prisoners remain in Chinese jails. A number of them, including Wang Juntao and Chen Ziming, suffer from isolation and have conducted hunger strikes.

Finally, there is continued concern over the export of prison-made goods, copyright and patent violations, the false labeling of textile exports, and nearly 100 different restrictions on imports.

We urge you to raise these matters with the Chinese authorities. China must adopt more responsible policies if it is to be a constructive member of the community of nations and benefit from normal trading relations with the U.S.

Thank you for your concern in this vital matter.

Sincerely,

Joseph I. Lieberman, U.S.S.

Dave Durenberger, U.S.S.